

Application No. 10/657,512
Amendment dated MAY 9, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated February 9, 2005

REMARKS

The Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action dated February 9, 2005. Claims 34-38, 44-46, and 51-62 are pending. Although the Office Action Summary and the text of the Office Action do not correspond, the Applicant assumes that claims 34-40, 42-48 and 50-53 were rejected and claims 41 and 49 were objected to. Claims 34, 46 and 53 have been amended, and claims 54-62 have been added. Claims 39-43 and 47-50 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments and additions. Reconsideration, reexamination and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 34-40, 42-48 and 50-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Grutza et al., U.S. Patent no. 3,965,623 (hereinafter "Grutza"). Claims 41 and 49 were also objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim, but allowable if written in independent form. Although the Applicant does not agree with the rejection of these claims, claims 34, 46 and 53 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 41 and 49. Claims 39-43 and 47-50 have also been cancelled. Applicant asserts that this removes the basis for rejecting independent claims 34, 46 and 53. Because they depend on allowable claims 34, 46 and 53, and because they contain additional patentably distinct elements, Applicant also asserts that claims 35-38, 44-45, and 51-52 are also patentable.

New claims 54-59 have also been added. Claims 54-59 are dependent on independent claims 34 and 46. Because they depend on these allowable independent claims and because they recite additional patentably distinct elements, Applicant asserts that these claims are also allowable.

New claims 60-62 have also been added. Applicant asserts that these claims are allowable. Specifically, claim 60 recites a method of forming a groove where there was no groove and claim 61 recites a method of making a groove deeper. Neither of these methods is recited in Grutza. The background section of Grutza describes a maintenance procedure from Westinghouse where the collector ring is trued with a spinning wheel at certain speeds. See column 1, lines 25-37. The procedure then "cautions that the spiral groove in the ring should be rechamfered after grinding to remove burrs." See column 1, lines 37-41, with emphasis added. The maintenance bulletin apparently describes two steps. The first step is the truing

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of the collector ring, then the second step is to clean burrs out of the grooves. This background section describes the removal of burrs from the grooves, but does not say how these burrs are to be removed and does not describe the formation of grooves or making grooves deeper.

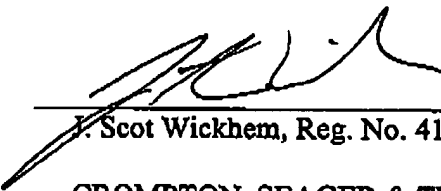
The rest of the specification then goes on to describe a process of trueing a collector ring, but nowhere does the specification describe a process of producing grooves in a collector ring, or a process of making the grooves in a collector ring deeper. Thus, with respect to claim 60, at least the element of forming a new groove is absent from Grutza. Similarly, the element from claim 61 of making a groove deeper is also absent from Grutza. Thus, Applicant asserts that claims 60 and 61 are allowable. Because it depends on allowable claim 61 and because it recites additional patentably distinct elements, Applicant also asserts that claim 62 is allowable.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,
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By his attorney,

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